



# USDA BROILER MARKET NEWS REPORT

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## NATIONAL BROILER MARKET-AT-A-GLANCE



Trade sentiment in the West, Midwest, and South was steady to about steady. In the Northeast, market conditions were at least steady driven by severe snowstorms, resulting in depleted pipelines and limited product availability. Other regions also experienced closer balanced inventories and/or delivery problems due to inclement weather in the East. Retail and food service was mixed, best for active retail ads and fast food. In the parts structure, trading was slow to fair and monitored for further developments due to weather. All items were at least adequate or available, occasionally close for leg quarters, and at times tight in the East. In production areas, live supplies were moderate at weights in a full range, but mostly desirable. The 12-CITY Weighted Average Price for 02/17/03 was 60.26, compared to 60.86 last week, and 55.63 a year ago.

**GEORGIA F.O.B. DOCK PRICES** The Georgia f.o.b. dock quoted price on broilers/fryers for next week's trading advanced .25 cents to 63.25 cents based on full truck load lots of ice-packed USDA grade "A" sized 2 1/2 to 3 pound birds. This compares to 62.75 cents last year on February 13, 2002.

Georgia f.o.b. dock quoted prices on ice-packed parts for next week's trading.

ITEM	DOCK PRICE (CENTS PER POUND)
LINE RUN TENDERS	168.50
BREASTS - B/S	149.50
BREASTS - WHOLE	85.50
THIGH MEAT - B/S	58.50
LEG QUARTERS	20.50
WINGS	72.00

THIS INFORMATION IS SUPPLIED BY THE GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE'S POULTRY MARKET NEWS SERVICE.

**SOUTHERN** Trade sentiment was mixed, but overall steady. Demand was fair to moderate, best for retail ads and fast food promotions. Supplies of all sizes were usually sufficient to handle trade needs. Many plants in the South reported delivery problems into the Northeast due to severe blizzards; otherwise, operations here were not affected. In the parts structure, trading was slow to fair. Breast items and wings were readily available, dark meat was in good balance. In production areas, live supplies were moderate at mostly desirable weights.

**NORTHEAST** Trucklot buying activity on ready-to-cook whole broiler/fryers was mostly fair during midweek trading as dealers cautiously assessed the market. Inclement weather conditions throughout the Northeast had moved product offerings into a close balance. Retail and distributive draw was slow. The market tone was at least steady. In the parts complex, breast items were sufficient. Dark meat cuts were adequate to fully adequate. Wings were available.

**MIDWEST** Whole fryer market tone continues about steady. Offerings were mixed, for the mostly very light trade interest. Retail demand was noted as slow to moderate with features drawing best interest. Food service interest continued spotty for some dealers and steady for others and fast food sales were mixed mostly fair at best. Floor stocks were generally adequate, weights desirable. Trading on parts was limited as buyers turn cautious and selective awaiting further market developments due to the weather. Supplies of boneless/skinless breasts and wings were adequate, leg items adequate to close and whole breasts sufficient. The market tone was steady to fully steady on leg quarters and thighs, about steady on boneless/skinless breasts and wings, all other items about steady.

**WESTERN** Trade sentiment was generally steady. Offerings were adequate to fully adequate with lightweight product in the closest position. Retailer demand was fair to fairly good best where features and specials were in progress. Floor stocks were generally adequate to cover current needs.

### CHICK PLACEMENT AND EGG SET TOTAL

19 STATES	PERCENT CHANGE	
WEEK ENDING 02/15/03	2003	2002
EGGS SET	202,463	210,479
CHICKS PLACED	166,036	167,095
		PREVIOUS YEAR
		-04
		-01

### BROILER EGGS SET IN 19 SELECTED STATES DOWN 4 PERCENT

Commercial hatcheries in the 19-State weekly program set 202 million eggs in incubators during the week ending February 15, 2003. This was down 4 percent from the eggs set the corresponding week a year earlier. Average hatchability for chicks hatched during the week was 83 percent. Average hatchability is calculated by dividing chicks hatched during the week by eggs set three weeks earlier.

### BROILER CHICKS PLACED DOWN 1 PERCENT

Broiler growers in the 19-State weekly program placed 166 million chicks for meat production during the week ending February 15, 2003. Placements were down 1 percent from the comparable week a year earlier. Cumulative placements from December 29, 2002 through February 15, 2003 were 1.15 billion, down 1 percent from the same period a year earlier.

BASED ON THE PRELIMINARY CHICK PLACEMENTS, THE NUMBER OF FRYERS AVAILABLE FOR MARKETING DURING THE WEEK ENDING 29-Mar-03 IS ESTIMATED AT 152.4 MILLION HEAD. THIS COMPARES TO 152.7 MILLION HEAD THE PREVIOUS WEEK AND TO 154.3 MILLION HEAD THE SAME WEEK A YEAR AGO, WHEN THE SLAUGHTER WAS 153.5 MILLION HEAD AND THE 12-CITY WEIGHTED AVERAGE PRICE WAS 54.18 CENTS PER POUND.

**SOUTHERN STATES BROILER/FRYER PARTS**

F.O.B. DOCK OR EQUIVALENT, ICED-PACKED, PRICES SHOWN ARE DAY OF SHIPMENT (INCLUDES CURRENT AND PRIOR NEGOTIATIONS), TRUCKLOT AND LESS THAN TRUCKLOT VOLUME, CENTS PER POUND.

**POUNDS**

ITEM	(000)	RANGE	MAJORITY	WTD AVG
BREAST - B/S	860	115.00-234.00	124-130	129.66
TENDERLOINS	121	125.00-172.00	-	137.55
BREAST - LINE RUN	117	82.00-88.00	83-86	85.78
FRONT HALVES	105	65.00-75.00	-	71.33
LEGS	88	26.00-35.00	-	26.82
LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	675	16.00-19.50	16-17	16.86
LEG QUARTERS (4/10)	855	18.00-26.00	20-21	20.64
WINGS (WHOLE)	275	63.00-73.00	-	71.58
WINGS (CUT)	281	81.00-84.00	-	83.16
DRUMSTICKS		TOO FEW TO REPORT		
THIGHS		TOO FEW TO REPORT		
B/S THIGHS	60	55.00-58.50	-	56.17

\*\*\*\*\*  
WHOLE BODY INDEX BASED ON SOUTHERN STATES PARTS TRADING FOR FEBRUARY 19, 2003 — F.O.B. DOCK.

RANGE	TODAY'S AVERAGE	5-DAY AVERAGE
40.50 - 47.25	44.10	46.26

The Index is intended solely as an indicator of values for commodity-type product and does not represent industry's willingness to sell or ability to buy.

**NORTHEAST BROILER/FRYER PARTS**

Trucklot buying activity was light to fair as dealers attempted to assess the market during midweek trading. Inclement weather throughout the Northeast continued to hamper deliveries at times, which left some dealers piece-mealing orders together with existing floor stocks. Offerings were irregular, but overall, breast items were sufficient, dark meat cuts at least adequate and wings were available. Retail and distributive movement was light. The market tone was at least steady.

ICE PACKED BROILER/FRYER PARTS, DELIVERED TO FIRST RECEIVERS IN POOL TRUCKLOT AND TRUCKLOT QUANTITIES, CENTS PER POUND

ITEM	CURRENT NEGOTIATED TRADING*	WTD AVG**	VOLUME /LBS
BREAST - B/S	140-145 135.85 343,391		
TENDERLOINS	110-115 118.34	56,420	
BREAST - WITH RIBS	83-84	89.50	168,360
BREAST - LINE RUN	83	85.73	109,520
LEGS	31-32	30.85	364,960
LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	20-21	21.14	608,952
DRUMSTICKS	23-24	29.81	123,650
THIGHS	21-22	32.06	63,300
B/S THIGHS	62-63	62.95	81,880
WINGS (WHOLE)	68-69	76.03	177,510
BACKS AND NECKS (STRIPPED)	10-12	12.27	43,040
LIVERS (5 POUND TUBS)	30-35	31.12	17,545
GIZZARDS (HEARTS)	45-50	49.02	26,490

IIINCLUDES: NY CITY METRO. AREA, RI, NORTHERN NJ, MA, CT, PA (NORTHEAST OF HARRISBURG).

\* TODAY'S NEGOTIATED SALES AS OF 11:30 A.M.

\*\* WEIGHTED AVERAGE PRICE OF ALL GRADES AND BRANDS OF PRODUCT SHIPPED, OR TO BE SHIPPED AS OF 1:30 P.M.

**ESTIMATED SLAUGHTER OF BROILER-FRYERS (IN THOUSANDS)**

	ESTIMATED		ACTUAL		AVG WTS		ACTUAL		AVG WTS	
	02/19	02/18	02/17	02/14	02/17	02/14	02/12	02/10		
ALA	3,649	3,888	3,476	4,018	5.15	5.07	3,681	5.19		
ARK	4,833	5,123	4,864	4,465	4.91	4.71	4,401	5.05		
DELMARVA	2,356	1,448	0	2,419	0.00	5.00	2,341	5.23		
KY-LA-TN	1,814	1,855	1,714	1,987	4.99	5.00	1,752	5.01		
MISS	2,744	2,960	2,793	2,735	5.40	5.32	2,890	5.51		
NC	2,438	2,100	1,511	2,659	5.63	5.74	2,396	6.06		
TEXAS	2,445	2,432	2,365	2,539	4.99	4.96	2,357	5.04		
TOTAL	20,279	19,806	16,723	20,845	5.13	5.08	19,818	5.28		
MON-WED	56,851	(A)					61,267	(A)		

Delmarva reported no operations on 2/17 due to winter weather.

(A) Weekly cumulative for states listed above.

Broiler-fryer slaughter under federal inspection for 19-Feb 03 and is estimated to be 30,340,000 up 2.02 percent from a week ago and down 4.2 percent from a year ago.

(Last week 29,739,000; last year 31,670,000)

**SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA (L.A. AREA) PROCESSED POULTRY**

DELIVERED TO RETAILERS	RANGE
FRESH FRYERS	90-92
ROASTERS 4# & UP	80-95
HENS UNDER 5#	-
HENS OVER 5#	65-66
DUCKS	
RABBITS-WHOLE	
RABBITS-CUT UP	

**SAN FRANCISCO PROCESSED POULTRY**

DELIVERED TO RESTAURANTS AND INSTITUTIONS		
FRESH FRYERS	DRY PACK	102-103
	ICE PACK	95-99
ROASTERS 4# & UP	DRY PACK	113
	ICE PACK	104-105
HENS OVER 5#	DRY PACK	
	ICE PACK	91-98
DUCKS		152-166

**ESTIMATED U.S. LIVE POULTRY SLAUGHTER**

UNDER FEDERAL INSPECTION FOR WEEK ENDING 22-Feb-03

CLASS	CURRENT WEEK	PREVIOUS WEEK
	02/22/03 (1)	02/15/03
	THOUSAND HEAD	
BRO-FRY	150,856 (2)	154,543
LT HENS	1,671	1,955
HVY HENS	1,500	1,301
TOTAL	154,027	157,799

(1)ESTIMATED

(2)The estimated number of broiler-fryers available for slaughter the week ending 22-Feb-03 is 153.7 million head compared to 157.9 million head slaughtered the same week last year. The estimated U.S. slaughter this week is 151.2 million head or 2.5 million more than estimated available. For week of 01-Mar-03 the estimated available is 153.4 million head.

**WEEKLY COLD STORAGE HOLDINGS-SELECTED STGE CENTERS**  
(INCL GOVT STOCKS) (IN THOUSANDS)

	PROCESSED TURKEY	PROCESSED POULTRY
	LBS	LBS
AM 02/17/03	164,286	74,008
AM 02/01/03	155,703	76,443
CHG	8,583	-2,435
PCT CHG	6	-3

**COLD STORAGE MOVEMENT** (IN THOUSANDS)

	PROCESSED TURKEYS			PROCESSED POULTRY		
	2/17/03	2/10/03	2/18/02	2/17/03	2/10/03	2/18/02
PACIFIC						
COAST	7,378	7,269	6,941	6,343	6,095	3,613
LOS						
ANGELES	1,390	1,404	106	3,969	4,008	2,203

**CENTRAL MISCELLANEOUS POULTRY RTC HENS**

READY-TO-COOK PRICES NEGOTIATED FOR DELIVERY TO FIRST RECEIVERS, U.S. GRADE A AND PLANT GRADE, 5 LBS. AND UP, FOR WEEK OF FEBRUARY 17, 2003

HENS	ICE PACKED (12 PER BOX) VACUUM PACKED (6-9 PER BOX)	RANGE
		61-64 61-79

**HACKETTSTOWN POULTRY SALES**

FOR 2/18/03

REPORT NOT AVAILABLE

**MAJOR WHOLESALE MARKETS - Mexico City**

Cents per pound for the week ending February 14, 2003

	Whole		Legs		Necks, Backs		Livers/	
	Chickens	Breasts	W/ Thighs	& Wings	Gizzards	Hens		
<b>RAYON</b>								
Low	59.30	125.29	75.18	20.88	12.53	66.82		
High	63.48	133.64	83.53	22.97	16.71	66.82		
Mostly	60.98	133.64	83.53	20.88	16.71	66.82		

**SAN JUAN**

Low	57.63	125.29	75.18	25.06	14.62	52.20
High	60.56	133.64	87.70	29.23	18.79	52.20
Mostly	59.30	125.29	83.53	27.15	18.79	52.20

**NEW SAN JUAN**

Low	58.47	125.29	75.18	18.79	12.53	64.73
High	62.65	133.64	83.53	20.88	16.71	64.73
Mostly	60.56	133.64	75.18	20.88	16.71	64.73

**BECERRA**

Low	58.47	125.29	83.53	25.06	16.71	52.20
High	60.56	133.64	91.88	29.23	20.88	52.20
Mostly	60.56	129.47	83.53	27.15	18.79	52.20

**DELMARVA**

Movement of ready-to-cook whole birds and parts was good for immediate delivery as buyers looked to restock depleted pipelines primarily due to disruptions caused by recent blizzard conditions in both production and receiving terminals. Offerings were generally tight and processors worked feverishly to return to normal operations; schedules were moderate to moderately heavy. Live supplies were at least moderate; weights varied in a full range of light to heavy. Less than trucklot asking prices were unchanged at 56 to 66 cents. Trade sentiment was steady to fully steady. In the parts complex, supplies were generally tight.

\*BROILER/FRYER CURRENT NEGOTIATED PRICES FOR IMMEDIATE DELIVERY INCLUDES MOSTLY MULTIPLE-DROP SHIPMENTS OF BRANDED AND WING TAGGED TO NEW YORK CITY FROM DELMARVA

		BRANDED
		U.S. GRADE A
RANGE		48-67
WEIGHTED AVERAGE		55.95
NO. OF BOXES		4,402

\*5 of 8 plants reporting.

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